

# Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 4 October 1990

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## Seasonally adjusted exports down, deficit up in August

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the balance of payments current account deficit for August 1990 rose \$222 million to \$1,497 million.

This increase was attributable to a \$129 million turnaround, from a surplus to a deficit, in the balance on merchandise trade, increases in the deficits on net services and net income (\$29 million and \$31 million respectively) and a fall of \$33 million in the net unrequited transfers surplus.

On the balance of trade, exports fell 3 per cent, and total imports were virtually unchanged despite the importation by Qantas of two civil aircraft valued at \$317 million.

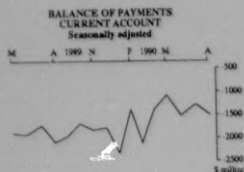
In original terms the current account deficit rose by \$34 million. Slightly lower deficits on merchandise trade and net services were more than offset by a higher net income deficit and lower net unrequited transfers surplus.

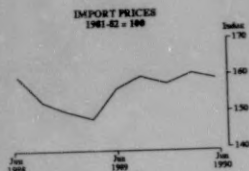
Rural exports fell \$92 million, or 8 per cent, due to falls in cereals and wool. Non-rural exports rose \$249 million or 9 per cent, due mainly to rises in mineral fuels and metals. Imports rose \$141 million, or 3 per cent, with the largest increases being in 'other imports', transport equipment and 'other manufactures'. The increase in 'other imports' was on account of increased defence imports. The increase in transport equipment was mainly due to the Qantas transaction.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS  
CURRENT ACCOUNT  
\$ million

	July 1990		August 1990	
	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted
Balance on merchandise trade	- 375	84	- 359	- 45
Net services	- 435	- 338	- 422	- 367
Net income	- 1,207	- 1,236	- 1,252	- 1,267
Net unrequited transfers	240	215	222	182
Balance on current account	- 1,777	- 1,275	- 1,811	- 1,497

For further information, order the publication *Balance of Payments, Australia* (5301.0) or contact either Zia Abbasi on (06) 252 6689 or Neil Batty on (06) 252 5540.





## Import prices fall in June quarter

Import prices fell by 0.9 per cent in the June quarter of 1990.

The decrease in the June quarter was influenced by the strengthening of the value of the Australian dollar against a number of our major trading currencies, in particular the US dollar and the Japanese yen. This was partly offset by the dollar falling in value against other currencies.

The main items recording price decreases were road vehicles and crude petroleum and petroleum products.

**IMPORT PRICES**  
**JUNE QUARTER 1990**  
Percentage change

Selected items	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Food and live animals	3.1	-0.8
Crude materials	-0.5	2.1
Mineral fuels	-10.9	2.4
Chemicals	-0.5	-2.3
Manufactured goods	0.4	3.1
Machinery and transport equipment	-0.6	1.0
Miscellaneous manufactured goods	0.6	4.1
All imports	-0.9	1.7

For further information, order the publication *Import Price Index, Australia* (6414.0), or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

## Vehicle sales slide confirmed

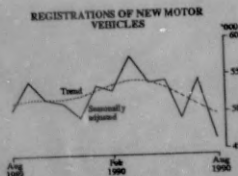
Total motor vehicle registrations fell by 14.7 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms in August 1990 after recording an increase against the trend in the previous month.

Total vehicles registrations in August were 46,430 (seasonally adjusted) compared with 54,430 in July and 50,466 in August 1989.

The trend estimate of registrations has now been in decline for five months, after an almost uninterrupted rise from the middle of 1987.

The main component of registrations — cars and station wagons — also fell sharply from 43,978 in July to 37,106 in August. The trend estimate for this category has been declining for the last four months, also after a steady rise since 1987.

For further information, order the publication *Registration of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, Preliminary* (9301.0) or contact Kevin Yeadon on (06) 252 6255.

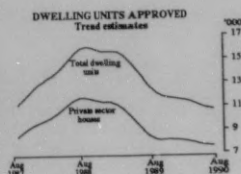


## The building industry: is it finally bottoming out?

Trends in private houses and total dwelling unit approvals have continued the decline of recent months, despite a small increase in approvals in August 1990.

Seasonally adjusted, the number of private houses (7,570) and total dwelling units (10,933) approved in August increased by 1.5 per cent and 4.6 per cent respectively over July. Numerically, however, dwelling unit approvals were at their lowest level for 3 years in July 1990, and the slight improvement in the August figures was not sufficient to substantially slow the downward trend.

As the graph shows, approvals have continued to taper off after the sharp downturn in the first nine months of 1989.



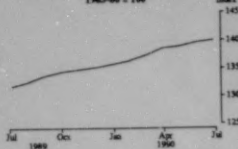
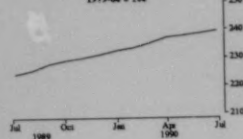
DWELLING UNITS APPROVED  
AUGUST 1990

	Private sector houses		Total dwelling units	
	No.	Percentage change on previous month	No.	Percentage change on previous month
Original	7,975	3.2	11,417	5.1
Seasonally adjusted	7,570	1.5	10,933	4.6
Trend estimate	7,549	-0.9	10,692	-1.1

The value of total building (residential and non-residential) approved in August was up 6.8 per cent on July (seasonally adjusted) to \$1,840 million, but remained 9.7 per cent below the August 1989 figure. The declining trend in this measure, however, is showing signs of abating.

Manufacturing production statistics for August (see report on page 6) provide another view of the building industry's decline. They show that in seasonally adjusted terms, production of both clay bricks and Portland cement fell during August to levels 16 per cent and 17 per cent respectively below the August 1989 level.

For further information, order the publication *Building Approvals, Australia (8731.0)*, or contact Paul Seville on (062) 252 6067.

HOUSE BUILDING MATERIAL PRICES  
1985-86 = 100PRICES OF NON-DWELLING  
BUILDING MATERIALS  
1979-80 = 100

## Increases in building material prices ease

Prices for building materials recorded modest increases in July with house building materials increasing by 0.3 per cent and materials used in other forms of building increasing by 0.4 per cent. The low monthly increases resulted in the annual rates of increase continuing to decline with house building materials recording an annual increase of 6.2 per cent and materials used in other building recording an annual increase of 6.8 per cent.

The July figures reflect small price increases in a wide range of materials, the main contributors being ready mixed concrete in all cities except Adelaide and Perth, and structural steel in all cities except Melbourne and Hobart.

PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS, JULY 1990  
Percentage change

City	House building		Other than house building	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Sydney	0.6	6.3	0.7	7.2
Melbourne	0.1	5.1	0.2	5.4
Brisbane	0.1	6.8	0.3	8.6
Adelaide	0.2	6.9	0.2	7.1
Perth	0.4	7.4	0.3	7.6
Hobart	-0.1	6.2	-0.1	5.0
Weighted average of six State capitals	0.3	6.2	0.4	6.8
Darwin	not available		0.3	4.9
Canberra	0.4	5.7	0.7	7.0

For further information order the publications *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0)* and *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities (6407.0)*, or contact Peter Sturgeon on (06) 252 6198.

## Engineering construction in brief ...

The value of engineering construction work done during the June quarter 1990, at average 1984-85 prices was \$2,051.5 million, an increase of 12.0 per cent over the March quarter 1990 (\$1,832.0m). Most of the increase over the quarter was in work done for the public sector (up 18.0%). Analysis of previous estimates of engineering construction work done, shows a fairly consistent pattern of increase in the value of work done between March and June quarters. The increase for the June quarter 1989 was 15.2 per cent, while the increase for the June quarter 1990 was 12.0 per cent.

Source: *Engineering Construction Survey, Australia, June Quarter 1990 (8762.0)*

## Production statistics show mixed results for August

Twelve of the twenty-five seasonally adjusted commodities covered by the monthly survey of manufacturing production increased between July and August 1990, with the remainder declining.

Compared with August 1989 however, only eight commodities recorded increased production, the other 17 showing falls between 2.2 per cent and 36.8 per cent (the latter being commercial vehicle production).

The largest percentage increases in August in seasonally adjusted terms came in confectionery other than chocolate based (up 30.8% following a 21.7% fall the previous month), cotton yarn (up 18.9% following a 3.0% fall the previous month) and cigarettes and tobacco (up 16.1% following a 3.2% fall the previous month).

The major falls occurred in the production of domestic clothes washing machines (down 43.2% which more than offset a 13.5% increase the previous month), goods vehicles (down 18.3%) and sulphuric acid and oleum (down 10.6%, following a 10.4% increase between June and July 1990).

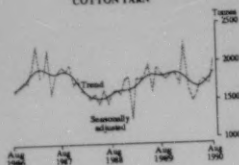
PRODUCTION OF COMMODITIES RECORDING  
SIGNIFICANT MONTHLY CHANGE  
Seasonally adjusted

Commodity	Unit	Production in August 1990	Percentage change from previous month
Increase —			
Confectionery, other than chocolate based	tonne	6,269	30.8
Cotton yarn	tonne	2,017	18.9
Cigarettes and tobacco	tonne	2,627	16.1
Decrease —			
Clothes washing machines	number	20,500	-43.2
Goods vehicles	number	1,480	-18.3
Sulphuric acid and oleum	'000 tonnes	114	-10.6

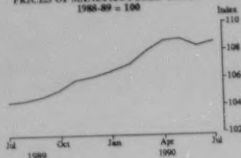
In terms of trend series over the past six months, thirteen of the commodities are showing increasing production trends, six have falling production while the trend for the remaining six commodities is flat.

For further information, order the publication *Production Statistics, Australia, Preliminary (8301.0)*, or contact Kevin Squair on (06) 252 5558.

COTTON YARN



PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS  
1988-89 = 100



## Annual price rises for manufactures at 4-year low in July

Prices of manufactured goods rose by 0.3 per cent in July. The small increase, which followed a decline of 0.5 per cent in June, resulted in the annual rate of increase falling to 4.1 per cent, the lowest annual rate since July 1986.

The main contributions to the July rise were higher prices for refined petroleum products, reflecting increased world oil prices, and raw sugar.

About one quarter of the items in the index recorded price decreases, none of which were significant, and there was considerable variation in the rate of price change between the various sectors of manufacturing (see table).

PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, JULY 1990  
Percentage change

Manufacturing sector	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Food and beverages	0.5	4.3
Clothing and footwear	0.5	5.8
Chemical products	—	4.5
Petroleum products	2.8	1.9
Basic metal products	-0.1	2.4
Fabricated metal products	0.6	7.5
Transport equipment	0.2	4.9
Other industrial machinery	0.2	2.7
Total manufacturing industry	0.3	4.1

For further information, order the publication *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (6412.0), or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

## Livestock products in brief ...

### ☐ Meat production

In original terms total red meat production increased by 2.3 per cent for August 1990 over July 1990 but decreased 3.1 per cent seasonally adjusted. Veal showed the largest increase of 43.0 per cent (10.0% seasonally adjusted). Chicken meat production fell in each state, with total production down by 11.5 per cent compared with July 1990.

### ☐ Milk

Whole milk intake during July 1990 increased by 14.8 per cent on June 1990, the first increase since October 1989. However, in seasonally adjusted terms whole milk intake fell by 1.5 per cent.

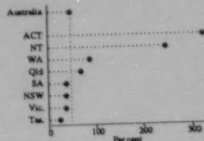
### ☐ Wool receivals

Wool receivals for August 1990 reached 118.5 thousand tonnes, 112.9 per cent higher than the relatively low July receivals, but a drop of 2.5 per cent compared with August 1989. Receivals for the first two months of 1990-91 were 13.3 per cent below those for the comparative period in 1989-90.

Source: *Livestock Products, Australia*, August 1990 (7215.0).

## Where we lived, where we moved and how fast we grew

POPULATION GROWTH, 1961-1986



Results of the last national Census have confirmed that Australia is one of the most urbanised countries in the world. The new ABS publication *Population Growth and Distribution in Australia* reports that 85 per cent of Australians lived in urban areas in 1986, the majority of them concentrated on the margins of the continent.

*Population Growth and Distribution in Australia* uses information collected during the 1986 Census of Population and Housing and earlier censuses to produce both a 'snap shot' of where people lived in 1986 and to show how regions and cities have increased or decreased in population over time.

Among other findings:

- ☐ Queensland had the highest net gain from interstate and overseas migration combined during the period 1976 to 1986,
- ☐ New South Wales and Victoria were still the most populous States in 1986 though their combined share of the population of Australia had decreased to 61 per cent from 66 per cent in 1947,
- ☐ between 1981 and 1986 Western Australia displaced South Australia as the fourth most populous state,
- ☐ the population of the Australian Capital Territory more than quadrupled and that of the Northern Territory more than trebled between the years 1961 and 1986,
- ☐ Tasmania had the lowest population growth rate for the period 1976 to 1986 — less than 1 per cent.

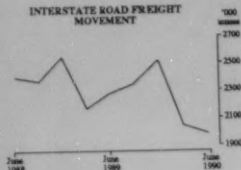
*Population Growth and Distribution in Australia* is the third volume in a series of thematic publications based on the last Census. The first — *Australia in Profile* — provided a new understanding of the characteristics of Australia's population. The second — *Australian Families and Households* — concentrated on the different ways people live together in families and households. *Population Growth and Distribution in Australia* provides an analysis of the sources of population growth and their regional impact, using clear tables and graphs and informative commentary.

POPULATION OF CAPITAL CITIES, 1986

Capital city	Estimated resident population '000	Proportion of	
		State population %	National population %
Sydney	3,473	63	21.7
Melbourne	2,932	71	18.3
Brisbane	1,196	46	7.5
Adelaide	1,004	73	6.3
Perth	1,050	72	6.6
Hobart	179	40	1.1
Darwin	75	49	0.5
Canberra (includes Queanbeyan)	281	—	1.8
All capital cities	10,190	—	63.6



INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT



## Freight moved interstate by road — low figures continue

Total interstate road freight moved by major operators during the June quarter 1990 was 2.9 per cent lower than in the March quarter 1990 and 12.8 per cent lower than the June quarter 1989 figure.

While this was the lowest quarterly total for five years, some care should be taken in interpreting the figure as an indicator of economic activity. A number of respondents reported that industrial action and adverse weather conditions had affected their activities during the quarter.

Decreases in freight originating and received were recorded for most major centres.

INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT, JUNE QUARTER 1990

	Road freight originating		Road freight received	
	'000 tonnes	Percentage change on previous quarter	'000 tonnes	Percentage change on previous quarter
Sydney	470	-2.8	467	-2.5
Melbourne	511	-0.7	561	-6.3
Brisbane	186	-12.5	254	2.5
Adelaide	195	-4.9	222	-5.8
Perth	44	8.4	56	10.5
Canberra	23	-3.2	85	-17.2
Total	1,984	-2.9	1,984	-2.9

For further information, order the publication *Interstate Road Freight Movement*, Australia (9214.0), or contact Andy Harris on (06) 252 5443.

## This week in brief ...

Extracts from this week's releases.

### ☐ Industrial disputes

In June 1990 there were 86 industrial disputes in progress, involving 17,400 employees and the loss of 21,400 working days. In the twelve months to June 1990, industrial disputes of one day's duration or less accounted for 49 per cent of all lost time.

Source: *Industrial Disputes, Australia, June 1990* (6321.0).

### ☐ Cash management trusts

The weighted average net yield of cash management trusts continued its eight month downward trend to stand at 13.45 per cent for August 1990. The 90 day bank bill rate also decreased to 13.75 per cent.

Total assets of cash management trusts were \$4,610.0 million in August 1990, an increase of \$95.9 million on July 1990. The average term to maturity was 49.0 days for August 1990, this compares with the July term of 42.3 days.

Source: *Cash Management Trusts, Australia, August 1990* (5635.0).

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

### ABS Central Office

PO BOX 10  
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TEL (06) 252 6627  
FAX (06) 253 1404

### ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611  
Vic. (03) 615 7000  
Qld (07) 222 6351  
WA (09) 323 5140  
SA (08) 237 7100  
Tas. (002) 20 5800  
NT (089) 81 3456

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Peter Damcevski  
Editor  
*Statistics Weekly*  
(06) 252 6101

## All the week's releases: 26 September to 2 October

### General

*Statistics Weekly*, 27 September 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, NSW, September 1990 (1305.1; \$12.50)  
Economic Indicators, NSW, September 1990 (1307.1; \$3.30)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Vic., September 1990 (1303.2; \$8.50)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Qld, September 1990 (1304.3; \$8.00)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, WA, September 1990 (1305.5; \$8.00)  
Economic Indicators, WA, September 1990 (1307.5; \$5.00)  
South Australian Year Book, 1990 (1301.4; \$29.50)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, SA, September 1990 (1303.4; \$8.00)

### Demography

Births, Qld, 1989 (3306.3; \$4.00)

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Balance of Payments, Aust., August 1990 (5301.0; \$12.00)  
Cash Management Trusts, Aust., August 1990 (5635.0; \$3.30)

### Labour statistics and prices

Industrial Disputes, Aust., June 1990 (6321.0; \$5.50)  
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, July 1990 (6407.0; \$9.00)  
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, July 1990 (6408.0; \$3.75)  
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Aust., July 1990 (6412.0; \$6.00)  
Import Price Index, Aust., June Qtr 1990 (6414.0; \$5.00)  
The Labour Force, NSW, February Qtr 1990 (6201.1; \$14.00)  
The Labour Force, Qld, August Qtr 1990 (6201.3; \$12.00)

### Agriculture

Livestock Products, Aust., August 1990 (7215.0; \$5.00)

### Secondary industry and distribution

Production Statistics, Aust., August 1990, Preliminary (8301.0; \$5.00)  
Production of Food, Drink, Tobacco and Stock and Poultry Food, Aust., June 1990 (8359.0; \$8.50)  
Building Approvals, Aust., August 1990 (8731.0; \$8.50)  
Engineering Construction Survey, Aust., June Qtr 1990 (8762.0; \$8.00)  
Production Statistics, NSW, July 1990 (8304.1; \$5.00)  
Manufacturing, Victoria: Economic Statistics Report, 1968-69 to 1987-88 (8206.2; \$30.00) — *new issue*  
Building Approvals, Vic., August 1990 (8731.2; \$8.50)  
Dwelling Units Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Vic., July 1990 (8741.2; \$8.00)  
Building Activity, Vic., June Qtr 1990 (8752.2; \$8.50)  
Census of Manufacturing Establishments: Summary of Operations by Class, WA, 1988-89 (8201.5; \$5.00)  
Building Approvals in Statistical Local Areas, SA, 1989-90 (8733.4; \$8.00) — *final issue*  
Building Approvals, NT, August 1990 (8731.7; \$5.50)

### Transport

Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Aust., August 1990, Preliminary (9301.0; \$4.00)  
Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, August 1990 (9303.3; \$5.50)  
Motor Vehicle Registrations, WA, August 1990 (9303.5; \$5.50)

## Calendar of key releases

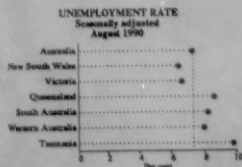
Expected releases over the fortnight to 16 October 1990

October

- 3** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, July 1990 (6411.0; \$8.50)
- 5** Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, August 1990 (6354.0; \$10.00)
- 11** The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary, September 1990 (6202.0; \$8.50)
- 15** Retail Trade, Australia, August 1990 (8501.0; \$8.50)
- 16** Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1991, June Quarter 1990 Survey (5626.0; \$8.50)

## The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to  
2 October 1990



Statistics Weekly  
4 October 1990

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (March qtr 90)*	10.1	-13.5	5.6	17.7	-5.3	-35.2	n.a.	n.a.	-2.4
Retail turnover (July 90) (trend estimate)	6.1	0.7	5.2	5.6	6.5	7.6	n.a.	10.4	4.5
New motor vehicle registrations (August 90)†	-10.2	-12.9	1.0	-3.4	-8.2	13.3	2.8	-16.8	-8.0
Number of dwelling unit approvals (August 90)	-14.2	-28.7	-3.7	-1.6	-22.3	-11.3	-32.5	33.9	-14.4
Value of total building work done (March qtr 90)	6.7	7.9	1.1	12.9	5.1	-4.9	30.9	-4.0	5.9
Employed persons (August 90)†	0.8	1.1	3.2	0.4	1.1	1.1	-2.7	1.3	1.2
Capital city consumer price index (June qtr 90)	8.1	7.8	6.6	6.7	8.6	6.2	6.4	6.9	7.7
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 90)	7.3	7.1	5.6	6.9	4.6	6.3	6.6	6.3	6.6
Population (March 90)	0.8	1.3	2.8	1.0	2.6	1.0	-0.1	2.0	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (March qtr 90)	3.7	1.1	3.8	6.9	-1.3	2.3	-1.2	-7.0	2.6

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

## Key national indicators – consolidated to 2 October 1990

		Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on			
		Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year		
Period							
<b>National production</b>							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	June qtr 90	91,183	93,879	0.4	5.6
	— 1984-85 prices			62,511	64,562	-0.9	1.0
<b>Industrial activity</b>							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	June qtr 90	6,990	6,657	-5.3	-9.3
	— 1984-85 prices			5,288	5,030	-4.6	-12.7
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Six months to Dec. 90	14,807	n.a.	n.a.	-1.6
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	July 90	6,687	7,004	-1.2	3.2
	— 1984-85 prices	"	June qtr 90	14,300	14,796	-0.3	1.4
New motor vehicle registrations		no.	August 90	50,111	46,430	-8.0	-14.7
Dwelling unit approvals		"	August 90	11,417	10,933	-4.6	-10.6
Value of all building approvals		\$m		2,036	1,840	6.8	-9.7
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Mar. qtr 90	6,922	7,562	-2.0	5.8
	— 1984-85 prices	"		4,429	4,839	-3.0	-2.3
Manufacturers' sales		"	June qtr 90	35,329	35,201	-3.0	2.3
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Six months to Dec. 90	75,399	n.a.	n.a.	4.6
<b>Labour</b>							
Employed persons		'000	August 90	7,825.0	7,893.1	-0.6	1.2
Unemployment rate †		%	"	7.0	7.3	0.4	1.3
Participation rate †		"	"	63.3	64.0	-0.2	0.6
Job vacancies		'000	May 90	50.8	50.9	-9.1	-30.5
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.4	1.4	-0.6	-6.3
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		June qtr 90	207.4	n.a.	1.6	7.7
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries (e)	1984-85 = 100.0		June 90	116.6	n.a.	-1.9	-2.8
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0		July 90	108.6	n.a.	0.3	4.1
Company profits before income tax		\$m	June qtr 90	3,356	3,634	-10.9	-25.3
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	May 90	534.10	n.a.	1.8	6.6
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>							
90-day bank bills †		% per annum	August 90	13.75	n.a.	-1.0	-4.2
10-year Treasury bonds †		"		13.50	n.a.	-0.4	0.6
<b>Balance of payments</b>							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	August 90	4,206	4,130	-3.1	4.6
Imports of merchandise		"	"	4,565	4,175	—	11.4
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		"	"	-359	-45	n.a.	94.1
Balance of goods and services (c)		"	"	-781	-412	-62.2	62.6
Balance on current account (c)		"	"	-1,811	-1,497	-17.4	28.4
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		June qtr 90	n.a.	104.9	1.7	-4.3
<b>Foreign investment</b>							
Net foreign debt		\$m	30 June 90	124,528	n.a.	-0.3	13.3
Net foreign liabilities		"		161,820	n.a.	0.2	11.4
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>							
US\$	per \$A		August 90	0.8088	n.a.	2.0	6.1
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0			61.4	n.a.	0.5	3.7
<b>Other indicators</b>							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million		Mar. 90	17.0	n.a.	0.4	1.5
Overseas visitors	'000		June 90	157	201	5.6	11.0

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released Wednesday, 3 October 1990.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 10).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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